

Abraham Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Calno, Pahaquarry Township
Warren County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-430

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

ADDENDUM

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Abraham Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Calno, Pahaquarry Township
Warren County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Julia Orthwein, New York City

Date of Erection: About 1730-5

Architect:

Builder: Abraham Van Campen

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - red sandstone
covered with concrete

Interior walls - plaster

Inside chimney

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

Abraham Van Campen was the first and most prominent settler in Pahaquarry Township. Pahaquarry Township was in the Indian release executed to the West Jersey proprietors in 1713. The first recorded sale to Abraham Van Campen belongs to the year 1732 when he bought from the heirs of George Hatcheson, one of the proprietors, sixteen hundred and sixty-six acres extending seven miles along the Delaware River for seven hundred and thirty-five pounds. However, this was not his first purchase for a survey was made for

him about the time of the Indian release. He was supposed to have settled in the region about 1725. John Reading, Jr. who surveyed as far as the Minisink lands in 1715 records no white settlers. Fifteen years later Scull and Lukens, who surveyed the valley north of the Water Gap, reported that it was thickly settled.

During his lifetime Abraham Van Campen acquired more than three thousand acres. When he died in 1767 he left about sixteen hundred acres to his sons. Richard Smith mentions "Van Camps" in 1769 when he made his canoe trip down the Delaware, and Dennis's Delaware River map of the same year shows Van Camps house and grist mills.

Abraham Van Campen was the third generation of the family in America. The earliest ancestor was Gerrit Jansen Van Campen who we know was married in 1659 and settled at Esopus. One of his sons was John baptized in 1661 at Kingston and who was still living in Ulster County, New York, in 1728. His death is recorded as taking place in Somerset County in 1745. Three of his sons settled along the Delaware and one of these was Abraham.

Abraham was a Colonel of the West Jersey Troops during the French and Indian War of 1755-1758 and his home was the headquarters in the Delaware Valley during the Indian wars. There was a fort built nearby the house to accommodate two hundred and fifty men; the officers were fed at the Van Campen table. Van Campen was also a Justice of the Peace and Judge of Common Pleas Court. The homestead descended from Colonel Van Campen to his son Abraham, Jr. by deed of November 26, 1766. From Abraham, Jr. the property descended to his son James by will of February 23, 1808. The house passed to the Ribble family early in the nineteenth century and from William Ribble it descended to his son George and to his son William R. The latter's widow was Cecilia Van Campen Ribble, a descendant of the original Van Campen. She died in 1932 without issue and the property was sold at auction. It was purchased by Mrs. Julia Orthwein.

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Walter C. Rist
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

Colonel Abraham Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Millbrook Vicinity
Pahaquarry Township
Warren County
New Jersey
An addendum to:

HABS No. NJ-430

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Old Mine Road
Calno
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

COLONEL ABRAHAM VAN CAMPEN HOUSE
(Abraham Van Campen House)

HABS No. NJ - 430
(PAGE 4)

An addendum to
Abraham Van Campen House
Old Mine Road
Calno
Pahaquarry Township
Warren County
New Jersey
in HABS 1941 Catalog

Location: East side Old Mine Road, approx 2.6 miles south of
Bushkill, Pa., Millbrook vicinity, Pahaquarry Township,
Warren County, New Jersey.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.499510. 4544710.

Present Owner: United States Government

Present Use: Residence

Significance: Colonel Abraham Van Campen was the first colonel of the
French and Indian War in north Jersey, and was instrumental
in the establishment of Montague Township in 1759. He
built this one-and-a-half-story stone house about 1750.
This house has been stuccoed and has recently undergone
some alterations on the exterior. However, much of the
original interior is still in place, including the original
exposed beam ceiling and some decorative strap hinges.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

Architectural character: This early Dutch house, built ca. 1750,
was measured and drawn because of its age and good
preservation. Unfortunately the exterior has been altered during
a recent remodeling to such an extent that it is difficult to
reconstruct the original appearance of the house. The original
entrance which faced the road was closed in the 1940s, and the
original windows can be found only on the north end of the
house. The enclosed winder stair in the center of the house has
been replaced with an open stairway.

B. Description of Interior

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-and-a-half-story structure measures 56'-6" by 25'-6".
2. Foundations: The stone foundations have been stuccoed and painted white. The exterior foundation wall is about 2" wider than the wall at the ground floor and therefore a 2" ledge encircles most of the perimeter of the house. A modern ground-level concrete foundation has been poured all around the house.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The very irregular walls are stuccoed stone and painted white. The gable ends and the dormers are covered with lapped siding and painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: The framing system is bearing wall with hand-hewn beams spanning the short dimension of the house. Rafters, which span in the same direction as the beams, appear to have been replaced or at least reseated, possibly when the composition roofing was installed. In addition, horizontal chords have been installed approximately 6' above the attic floor level.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: In addition to the above-mentioned continuous concrete foundation around the perimeter of the house, there is a recent long slate porch extending for 35' along the southeast elevation. The porch has a width of 9'. Each door on the back has its own small stoop. At each end of the basement is a covered hatch accessway.
6. Chimneys: Two chimneys appear to be original, the larger being in the center of the house. Both have been recently replaced with brick construction. A third brick chimney serves the modern central furnace.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The two existing rear doorways to the first floor are simply detailed and covered with a small gabled roof of unknown vintage. The original front doorway facing the road has been filled in and plastered over.
 - b. Windows: The original front (northwest) elevation now has four full-sized windows on the ground floor and one half-window. There are two dormers and one small gable in the attic. Three half-windows appear in the basement of the original front facade. The ends are identical, with two windows on the ground floor and two in the gable. The window

on the northeast end appear to be the original six-over-six-light double-hung sashes. The rear side (southeast) has three windows and three dormers. The combined window-door unit which shares the same masonry opening is unusual.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a large gable, probably originally slate, but now covered with composition shingles. The dormers have the same covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a board cornice on the gabled ends.
- c. Dormers: Two dormers flank a small gable on the original front side; three small dormers are on the back of the house. Early photographs show that the north dormer on the front side was missing in 1942. Both the dormers and the small gable have gabled roofs, are covered with lapped siding, and are painted white. The east dormer on the southeast elevation has two-over-two large lights. Other dormer windows are nine or twelve lights, hinged; the small gable has eight-light casement windows.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement is divided into three spaces
- b. First floor: The first floor is divided into three rooms, with the kitchen on the northeast end and the living room in the center. The third space, on the southwest end, is subdivided into two bedrooms. A bathroom is located in the west corner of the kitchen.
- c. Attic: The attic is partially occupied by two bedrooms and a bathroom. The remainder is used for storage.

2. Stairways: An open straight-run stairway leads from the living room to the attic and to the basement. It replaces an enclosed winding stairway which was also located in the living room. A closed, straight-run stairway leads from the kitchen to the attic.

3. Flooring: The flooring in the kitchen and living room is modern boards, running northwest-southeast. The flooring in the bedrooms is boards varying 12" to 18", running northeast-southwest. On the attic level, the floor boards in the southwest

bedroom vary in width 11" to 18" and run northeast-southwest. Other flooring is modern floor boards. The basement has a slate floor below the bedrooms and concrete in the remainder.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Large arched stone fireplaces are located on the northeast wall of the kitchen and the southwest wall of the living room. On the first floor the walls are plastered and painted white, except for partition walls which are pine, painted white. The living room and kitchen ceilings have exposed rough-hewn beams, painted white. The ceilings in the bedrooms are 3" beaded boards, painted white. The ceilings in the attic are also beaded boards. The basement ceiling has exposed beams.
5. Openings: The living room has three internal doorways: one leading into the kitchen to the north, and two leading into the bedrooms to the south. All three board doors appear to be old, and contain some unusual hand-wrought hardware, displaying the tulip pattern. The doorway leading into the large bedroom (originally the front bedroom) is the only doorway with decorative trim, in the form of a pediment molding. The bedrooms are connected by a modern board door; the doorway is probably original. The doorways in the attic have a very simple trim piece.
6. Hardware: The door to the south bedroom is hung with two HL hinges, while the other two interior doors are hung with two long decorative straps each, and suspended from two pintles attached at the edge of the frame. The hardware on the kitchen stairway door is the long strap type, decorated with a tulip motif. The door to the basement on the northeast end also has strap hinges with a tulip motif.
7. Mechanical equipment: Electric lighting and forced hot-air heating.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house now faces southeast on a small rise above Old Mine Road, which makes a gentle curve to the east around the property. A dense row of shrubbery now separates the house from the road. In general, the house overlooks the Delaware River valley, although the dense woods at that point obscure the view of the actual river.

2. Outbuildings: Outbuildings consist of a one-and-a-half-story barn painted white and a small garage used for storage located beside the barn, all to the east of the house.

Prepared by: Kenneth N. Clark
Project Supervisor
HABS
June, 1968

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1968 under the direction of Kenneth N. Clark (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Andrei T. Banks (Howard University), Gary W. Kreger (University of Virginia), and John R. Naughton (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Bangor, Pennsylvania, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968.